

# ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

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Office of the Archbishop



Post Office Box 1979  
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

May 21, 2004

Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WT Docket No. 03-66

Dear Chairman Powell:

The Archdiocese of Chicago has long been licensed to use Instructional Television Fixed Service ("ITFS") channels in the 2.5 GHz band to transmit instructional programming to students in our schools. The Archdiocese of Chicago recently invested approximately \$200-thousand for new television equipment to better serve our schools through the use of ITFS technology. We are acquiring new, diverse educational programs that can be fed to our high schools. We are able to videotape presentations made to either students or teachers at any of our schools and, thanks to our ITFS system, share the material with thousands of others quickly and efficiently.

As the cost of education continues to increase, the resources we can provide to schools through our ITFS system are essential in keeping the quality of education high, and ensuring that every child has access to the resources necessary to excel. The FCC showed great foresight in the 1960's with the allocation of ITFS spectrum for educational purposes. It is the only spectrum specifically dedicated to formal education. It is with this in mind that we ask your support in protecting this vital educational asset.

While we support adoption of new technical rules to permit more flexible use of ITFS spectrum for new services such as high-speed wireless Internet access, we strongly oppose the commercialization of ITFS. Loss of spectrum would deal a terrible blow to education options for students in need. I urge you to reject proposals to allow any ITFS spectrum to be sold to commercial entities. I also ask that you oppose any reduction in the total amount of spectrum allocated to ITFS.

The future of education through the ITFS band holds exciting possibilities for teaching institutions dedicated to providing a high quality, affordable learning experience for all children no matter what their background. I respectfully hope that you will support our efforts to prevent this vital educational resource from being removed from the control of educational entities.

Honorable Michael K. Powell  
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Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francis Cardinal George". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Francis" being more prominent.

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.  
Archbishop of Chicago

cc: Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Mr. John Muleta